



REV. J. P. ROBINSON

UP FROM SLAVERY.

Struggles and Triumphs of an Arkansas Theologian Well-Earned Honors Won as a Pulpit Orator, Author and Church Builder.

Men who have traveled the thorny paths of difficulty and have wrung from the world a success that was reluctantly yielded, tho' they do not startle the world, deserve creditable mention by their fellow-men. Arkansas in Home Mission and Educational work, is foremost in the Baptist councils of the country. No man living or dead has done more in organizing and pushing the Baptist cause of that State than the subject of this sketch—Rev. J. P. Robinson, D. D.

FROM SLAVERY TO PULPIT.

He was born in De Soto county Miss., before the dawn of freedom, but by close application and constant toil has gained an honored place among the great Negroes who came through the slave pens of the South. His early education was begun in the free district schools conducted by Northern friends. Being forced by poverty to work, he was not able to attend these schools long—hence he continued his studies at night and thereby laid the foundation of his future usefulness. Rev. Robinson served his parents until he was 22 years old. It was then that he turned and faced an unfriendly world. He stepped forth depending upon naught but his will power and well developed muscles. The more the world rebuffed the harder he struggled. Foes were overcome, opposition downed, and in 1881 he began public life as a minister of the Gospel. This was really the beginning of one of the most unique characters in Arkansas history.

COLLEGE LIFE.

Shortly after he had landed in the city of Little Rock, he heard the voice of J. A. Booker pleading for an educated Baptist pulpit. Catching inspiration from the life of this great and scholarly man he entered the Arkansas Baptist College. He entered school to stay, and though pastoring a large charge, as well as experiencing many other hardships, he went to the end. For nine long years he labored and studied, and in 1902 his members and friends cheered and gave him the glad hand when he received the degree of bachelor of arts. No student has gone from the Arkansas Baptist College that is more revered and loved by his Alma Mater than J. P. Robinson. At

all times he is ready to champion its cause, and his church contributes more to its support than any church in the State.

CHURCH WORK.

As a church worker and financier he has few equals. When he took charge of the First Baptist church in Little Rock, he found the flock scattered and a debt of \$5,000 and upward hanging over the church. He was a young man and inexperienced but he went to work and in a few years the members had been brought back to the fold and the debt lifted. To-day he is standing at the head of the most flourishing church in all the State of Arkansas, a stately brick structure that will easily seat from 3,000 to 4,000 people, with all modern improvements, etc.

AS AN AUTHOR.

Notwithstanding Rev. Robinson's busy career, he has had time to write and compile several books. "Sermons and Sermonettes" and "Christian Advocate" are among his best works, and they are read extensively, by all churches. In his writings he has made no pretense at literary merit or high scholarship, but has stated the simple truth as plainly and concisely as possible. In these little volumes he has not dealt with the stars, but has endeavored to put before his fellowmen the shortcomings of humanity. That he has succeeded in giving to his people a long-felt want is evidenced by the large sale of the books.

HIS LAST HONOR.

Wednesday night, May 8th, a large crowd of citizens assembled at Rev. Robinson's church. Men and women of all classes were there. They had been invited, but for what no one knew. All of the distinguished men of the city were seated upon the rostrum. Anxiety was written upon every face—and when Hon. J. E. Bush arose and read a letter stating that the trustee board of the University of Kentucky, had conferred the degree of doctor of divinity upon Rev. Robinson, the applause was deafening. Thus step by step he is climbing the hill. He is made of that material that knows no defeat. Success and honor may come—yet he is the same J. P. Robinson. Though he walks in the paths of greatness the cripple dog by the high way receives a kindly stroke from his hand. All his days are spent, when out of his study, in looking after the meek and lowly. He is known to all as "Brother Robinson." Few Sundays pass that his church does not lift a collection for the poor. Dr. Robinson is yet a young man. What he has done we all know. What he may do the future will

tell. He is now holding the following positions: Chairman of the Home Mission board, National Baptist Convention; Vice-President of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; trustee of the Arkansas Baptist College.

NOTES OF THE MASONIC EXCURSION.

The Masonic excursion on June 24th, inst., St. John's Day, gives promise of being the event of the season. The committee has been compelled to have printed three hundred additional tickets to meet the increased demand. Not even the oldest inhabitant can recall the occasion when there was so much interest and enthusiasm among our Masonic brethren over an excursion. Brother John P. Turner, the efficient chairman of the executive committee, says that the interest is mainly due to a desire on the part of the brethren to see the veteran oarsmen, Brothers Malvin and Tompkins, out in their double scull with a challenge against the field.

The following letter has been received at this office:

EDITOR COLORED AMERICAN.

Dear Sir:—How do the Masons expect to accommodate all the people who will patronize their excursion? It seems that five out of every ten people one meets with expects to attend. At this rate the attendance will be even greater than the letter carriers' excursion, which broke all previous records.

MANY CONSTANT READERS.

We referred this letter to Brother Malvin, chairman of the general committee, and we are authorized by him to say that arrangements have been made to secure the services of another boat should the River Queen prove unequal to the task of accommodating the large number of people who will patronize the excursion. Rumor has it that the swift, staunch and commodious steamer Charles MacAllester, is the boat referred to.

It is stated on good authority that the following expert oarsmen will contest for the prize:

Social Lodge—W. H. J. Malvin, R. W. Tompkins, John W. Freeman and Arthur Simmons.

Felix Lodge—J. F. N. Wilkinson and Geo. S. Newman.

Hiram Lodge—Wm. Washington and J. Butler.

Warren Lodge—Richard Laws and Richard H. Jones.

Eureka Lodge—L. C. Bailey and Edward Watson, Sr.

Meridian Lodge—Julius Warren and Charles Carter.

Pythagoras Lodge—Paul H. Bray and Thornton A. Jackson.

Widow's Son Lodge—George Boyd, W. A. Carter, F. Parker and George W. Jones.

St. John's Lodge—Ferdinand Riles and Geo. C. F. Rogers.

Prince Hall Lodge—Robt. H. Terrell, Jerome A. Johnson, Jacob G. Hutchins and J. Wm. Cole.

Datcher Lodge—J. D. Howard, C. H. Young, Jas. W. Thompson and Edward Chase.

John F. Cook Lodge—Brooks Burr and Philip Green.

Brother John P. Turner who was suddenly called to Atlanta, Ga., by the illness of his father, the venerable Bishop Turner, writes that his father is much improved in health. Brother Turner will be present at the final meeting of the general committee, which will be held at Masonic Temple, Sunday, June 22d.

By invitation of Manager Woolen the members of the executive committee went to Notley Hall last Sunday to look over the grounds and suggest such alterations and improvements as will best meet the wishes of their patrons on the 24th inst.

Prof. H. E. Barnett, principal of Gainesboro school, Roanoke City, with wife and daughter from St. Paul Institute at Lawrenceville, Va., is in the city. It is learned that Mrs. Barnett and daughter have returned to remain indefinitely. It is hoped in the near future that the family in its entirety will locate permanently. Mr. Barnett is no stranger, and his friends are always pleased to meet him. He is at 1105 19th street northwest.

Watson's

Park.

Washington's Great Pleasure Resort, located on Glen Echo Railroad, Md., now open for the season, and it is hoped that every person will pay one visit to the Park this season as there has been many improvements made for your enjoyment. All churches, social clubs and associations are invited to spend their outing this summer at Watson's Park. Special car can be chartered Direct for the Park and ordered back when wanted. Cars for every day service. Take Chevy Chase for the Park. Those driving take Conduit to Turners and turn to the right. For further information apply to A. D. WATSON, 2025 L Street, N. W.

Excelsior

Pleasure

Park.

Formerly known as MADRE'S PARK.]

Is open for engagements for picnics and out-door entertainments by Sunday Schools, Churches, Societies and reputable Clubs and individuals for the season of 1902. Run under entirely new auspices, the Excelsior Business Club. Offers the best facilities for car line, as the Berwyn line of cars will let passengers off at the gate of the Park; ONLY ONE FARE. Ample, covered Pavilion. Good water. Enclosed grounds with swings and other improvements. For further information or engagements address, or call at the residence of,

Walter R. Franklin, President.

320 Elm Street, N. W., City

Will see callers from 4 to 7 o'clock p. m.

Tournament.

Ball Games

—AT—

Keystone Park,

NEAR SUITLAND, MD.

on Silver Hill Road, Prince George County, Md.

FRIDAY, JULY 4,

Big Prizes.

Full Brass Band!

Tilting

Baseball!

ROBERT H. KEY, Manager.

ADMISSION, 25 CTS.

For particulars, see large bills.

"The Nap ha Launch 'Iva'"

is now ready for charter to outing or fishing parties. Parties not to exceed eight in number. Captain Johnson, Residence 2252 Cleveland Place. Wharf Cumberland Boat House, foot of F street northwest.

Rumor says that Bros. R. W. Tompkins, Dan Steward and George S. Newman will be one of the crews in the boat race June 24 at Notley Hall.